Remarks

Claims 1-22 and 24-30 are in the application, of which claim 1 is in independent form. Claim 23 is cancelled by this amendment.

Applicants thank the Examiner for allowing claims 1-22.

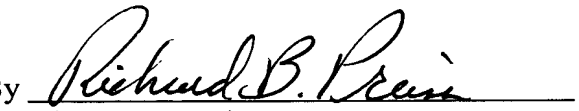
Claims 23-30 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) for obviousness over U.S. Pat. No. 5,549,756 ("Sorensen et al.") in view of U.S. Pat. No. 6,122,300 (Freiberg et al."). Applicants respond by canceling claim 23 and amending claims 24-29 to depend from allowed claim 1, and amending claim 30 to depend from allowed claim 5. Claims 24-29 are further amended by replacing "is" with --includes--.

Claim 30 stands rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) for obviousness over Sorensen et al. in view of Freiberg et al. and further in view of U.S. Pat. No. 5,889,808 ("Kojima et al."). Applicants believe that amended claim 30 is allowable because it depends from allowed claim 5.

Applicants believe their application is in condition for allowance and respectfully request the same.

Respectfully submitted,

Ronald A. Palfenier and
Patrick J. Nystrom

By 
Richard B. Preiss
Registration No. 36,640

STOEL RIVES LLP
900 SW Fifth Avenue, Suite 2600
Portland, OR 97204-1268
Telephone: (503) 224-3380
Facsimile: (503) 220-2480
Attorney Docket No. 45532/1:8